



MONTANA GHOST TOWN PRESERVATION SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1861, BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59771-1861
<http://ghosttown.montana.com> Phone: 406-522-3856

CHARTERED 1970
Summer 2008

SEE YOU IN BUTTE !

Although we've tried to include as many aspects of Butte as we could in the convention program so that you come away with an appreciation of the flavor of the city's history, it is impossible, in the time constriction, to include all that Butte has to offer. Should you be enticed to stay longer, here are some of the attractions that we considered, but because of time and budget restrictions, we had to forego.

MONTANA TECH MINERAL MUSEUM,
Montana Tech Campus, Park Street West, 496-4414

Over 1,500 specimens are on display in what was originally the auditorium and ballroom of the former Montana School of Mines. These include the 27.5 ounce gold nugget, found in the Highland Mountains south of Butte in 1989 and a nearly 400 pound quartz crystal from the same region. Most of the displays are from the mines of Butte but other examples of minerals from around the world are included.

MAI WAH MUSEUM,
17 West Mercury Street, 723-3231.

The museum preserves and interprets the rich heritage of the Asian community in Butte. As with other mining towns on the western frontier, Chinese miners first came to work the diggings abandoned by white miners and afterwards were relegated to operating laundries, restaurants and doing domestic service. Their artifacts and culture is on display by the Mai Wah Society, who is also restoring the Mai Wah Noodle Parlor and the Wah Chong Tai building.

COPPER KING MANSION,
219 West Granite Street, 782-7580

Constructed in 1884 – 1888 for the Copper King William A. Clark, at an estimated cost of over a quarter of a million dollars (translate that figure to today's dollar) this opulent mansion was once described by the National Geographic Magazine as "a palace fit for a king". Today, it is privately owned, but guided tours throughout the magnificent home are available.

CLARK CHATEAU MANSION,
321 West Broadway, 723-7600

William A. Clark, also built this mansion in 1898 as a wedding gift for his son Charles and his new wife Katherine. On display today are thousands of artifacts including books, vintage clothing and furniture. Be sure to see the ballroom on the 4th floor and the stained glass windows throughout the home. On the first two floors you will find three art galleries featuring works by local, regional and national artists. There is also a small gift shop.

PICCADILLY MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION,
20 West Broadway, 723-3034.

With a replica of a 1920's rural filling station as one of its attractions, this museum also displays highway memorabilia from around the world with emphasis on vintage North America cars and transportation.

OUR LADY OF THE ROCKIES TOUR,
3100 Harrison Avenue, 782-1221.

The bus tour leaves at scheduled times and winds its way up a private access road to the monument that overlooks the city from the 8,500 ft. mark. The view is spectacular and the monument, built by volunteers, is about the size of the Statute of Liberty. We suggest you phone first to confirm departure times and make a booking.

DUMAS BROTHEL,
45 East Mercury Street, 494-6908

Built in 1890, it was run as an active brothel until its closure in 1982 and is the only surviving building in what was once the red light district of Butte. Last year the owner faced massive building maintenance costs and was forced to close down, but a donation, enough to re-roof the building, may enable the museum to re-open this year.

BUTTE - SILVER BOW ARCHIVES,
17 Quartz Street, 497-6226.

If you are interested in genealogy, or if you have any family history remotely connected to Butte, this is the place to start your research. The Archives also houses an extensive, possibly the most complete in the United States, collection of Irish-American community activities, in its Irish Collection. However, the Archives is going through a remodeling process and are open only on certain days. Call the Archives for times.

Even if you cannot stay for an extended visit, we hope that the program we have put together will be sufficient to enlighten you to the cultural beauty that is Butte.

Montana Ghost Town Quarterly

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Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society,
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Founded in 1969, the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public to the benefits of preserving the historic buildings, sites, and artifacts that make up the living history of Montana.

Opinions expressed in the bylined articles are the authors' and do not necessarily represent the views of the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society.

Summer 2008

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Prez Sez 

John Ellingsen

After over 36 years working at Virginia and Nevada Cities, I will be retiring from the Montana Heritage Commission on June 30, 2008. I will then begin a year's employment with the Montana History Foundation writing a book on Virginia City History. Next May, on my 62nd birthday, I plan to really retire and begin collecting Social Security, while the Montana History Foundation will continue to pay me a salary up to what is allowed by Social Security to do further writing for the next several years.

I first visited Virginia City in 1952 at age 5, but even before that I remember "Old Town," Charlie Bovey's recreation of a town c. 1870 - 1910 built inside a big "barn" at the Great Falls Fair Grounds. My earliest memory, at age 2, is of the player piano in the Old Town Saloon: seeing the keys going up and down and the movement behind the glass with pictures of birds.

While I remember every detail from my first Virginia City visit, it was the next trip to Virginia City that really clinched my love for the "old time" town. In the summer of 1956, when I was 9 years old, my Mother and I traveled by train from Great Falls to Helena, where we spent the afternoon exploring the fabulous Capitol building and the Victorian architecture of the downtown. The next day we took the train from Helena to Butte and I experienced a "big city" with its high buildings, bustling streets, and operating underground mines. That evening was spent at Columbia Gardens, mostly riding the Merry-go-round until I became sick. But the next day was the real thrill - we rode the "stage" - part bus and part truck - to Virginia City where we took a room on the balcony of the Fairweather Inn. I loved "old fashioned" things and was already in love with the past. Studying the displays in the store windows was intriguing beyond almost anything I had ever seen - it was like a trip back in time. And then there was the Bale of Hay Saloon with its numerous player pianos complete with drums and organ pipes. That night we attended the "Opera" - "Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street." I was pretty scared when a murder took place live, right before my eyes, but the happy songs of the Vaudeville show negated the fright of the show. We spent two glorious days in Virginia City and as we rode the "stage" back to Butte, with the catchy rag-time tunes of the music machines inside my head, I could think of little else but that wonderful place.

Thoughts of Virginia City occupied my day dreams and every moment I could spend away from school work for not only the next year, but actually most of the rest of my life. I begged to go there every year, and we did visit Virginia City nearly every year thereafter. In 1959 we learned our beloved "Old Town," another of my favorite places, which we visited quite often since it was close by, was going to be taken away to "Nevada City." Thinking this was in Nevada, we thought we would never see it again. When we visited Virginia City in the spring of 1959, we learned Nevada City was actually only a mile and a half from Virginia City. There was not much there in the spring of 1959, but by the time of our 1960 visit, many familiar buildings from Old Town were under reconstruction, and as the years passed, we were always excited to see what was "new" in old Nevada City. So the 1960's passed, with my thoughts constantly on Nevada and Virginia Cities, always looking forward to our annual visit, which were usually on the Labor Day weekend.

Since grade school I had intended to become an architect, but high school counselors convinced me that, since I did not want to leave Montana and hated modern architecture, I would be miserable. It was recommended that I become a drafting teacher, thus taking Industrial Arts in college. Within a week of beginning college at Bozeman in the fall of 1965, I got a job at, and the key to, the McGill Museum (later called Museum of the Rockies). Because I was obviously interested in museum work, Dr. M.G. Burlingame, director of the Museum and professor of Montana History, convinced me to make history my minor. Though I had long liked Montana history, mainly because of Virginia City, I had never thought of it as a college subject.

After receiving my Bachelor's Degree from MSU, I worked the summer of 1969 with Bob Morgan in the Montana Historical Society museum in Helena, and became fascinated with the wonderful 1880's buildings of Last Chance Gulch. By then I had decided to take two more years of graduate studies, this time in my true interest fields of architecture and history. In the fall of 1969, I began history of architecture studies with John N. DeHaas, and eventually returned to Helena in January - March 1971 where I measured, photographed, and sketched many of Helena's fabulous business blocks just before they were destroyed by Urban Renewal.

Continued on page 6

New Members

Secretary Rosemary Lee reports the following New Members have joined our Association since the last newsletter.

Please make them welcome.

Ryan Palma, Bitterroot Forest Products, Missoula.

Curtis & Angela Ballew, Bigfork

Lyle Ford, Great Falls

Dave & Candy Crow, Bigfork

There is a new ramrod in the editor's chair, with this being my first effort as the editor of your newsletter. First I would like to thank Jan O'Brien for the excellent job he has done over the years, but due to commitments, namely working on the ghost town map and his many other activities, he reluctantly had to take a leave of absence. In other words, if I screw up, he will be back a lot more quickly than he anticipated. Over the next few issues, I intend to introduce a few new features, starting with "Worth a Visit", highlighting some of the lesser-known museums in our state, and "Preserving Montana", letting you in on various preservation efforts made by individuals around the state. Any comments, good or bad, or if you have any ideas or articles for future newsletters, please, e-mail me at terryhalden@hotmail.com

See you in Butte!

Terry

MYSTERY CAMP

If you think you know the identity of this ghost camp, then either e-mail me at terryhalden@hotmail.com or drop me a line at Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1861, Bozeman, MT 59771

All the correct answers will be put into a hat and a lucky winner will be drawn at the convention banquet in Butte. He or she will receive a signed copy of my book, *Ghost Towns and Mining Districts of Montana*. Only one guess per member is allowed – no stacking the ballot box!

It's going to be interesting to see how many people actually read this rag!!!!!!!



PRESERVING MONTANA

William Andrew Clark, one half of the Copper King wars in Butte, had ambitions to become a U.S. Senator, and in 1899 in an attempt to garner votes, he donated land on the eastern outskirts of Butte on which he built what was to be known as Columbia Gardens. In the drab surroundings of the city the landscaped grounds created an oasis of greenery, and quickly became a favorite picnic spot for the populace. Soon it had a bandstand, a banquet hall, a dancehall, concession booths and a three tier wooden roller coaster, christened 'The Velvet Toboggan'. Despite a fatal accident in 1918, which resulted in the roller coaster being reduced to two tiers, it continued as an attraction until September 1973. Following its dismantling only two roller coaster cars were saved from the scrap yard, one of which resides in the World Museum of Mining.

In 2005 Mike Byrnes came up with the idea to reproduce a replica of the car. Using measurements from the car in the museum, he has manufactured an exact duplicate, and placed in on a frame of ingenious valves and pulleys, which are programmed to give the occupants of the car a simulated roller coaster ride. The car tilts back to give the impression of going up hill, forward for downhill and banks on corners. All this is accompanied by a soundtrack and when a wide screen, programmed to show a roller coaster ride, is installed in front of the car, the occupants will have a three and a half minute ride of their life, without the necessity of going to Disney World.

Bring your own hard-hat and seat belt.



Mike Byrnes at the controls of his roller coaster car.

California Bakery.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

JOHN SPIKER.

PROPRIETOR,

Wallace Street, Virginia City.

Keeps constantly on hand Cake, Pies, Bread, Pigs Feet, in season.

Wines and Liquors of all kind at 12 1-2c

Cigars 12 1-2c Bread per Loaf 25 cts.

Dec13tf.

Looking at the advertisement to the left, which was taken from the *Madisonian*, May 9th 1874, would you believe that \$100.00 then would be worth \$1,540.05 today? Or the .25c loaf of bread would cost \$3.85, today?

Inflation has almost caught up but in the case of the necessities of life, like wines, liquors and cigars, inflation is rampant.

Check the website: www.westegg.com/inflation/

Editor

WE'VE LOST ANOTHER ONE

Although it may not be 'hot' news to a lot of our members, for many of us, the loss by fire of the general store / hotel in Red Bluff, Madison County is sad news. Built sometime in the latter half of the 19th century, the stone building served as a general store and a hotel on the stagecoach route from Virginia City to Fort Bozeman. It can be seen in the ca. 1890 photo of Red Bluff in the upper right center. As mining activity in Red Bluff Mining District came to an end, so the town started evaporating and eventually the stone building was taken over by Montana State University in Bozeman and used as an agricultural field station. A grass fire that got out of hand in 2006 spread to the building and destroyed it.



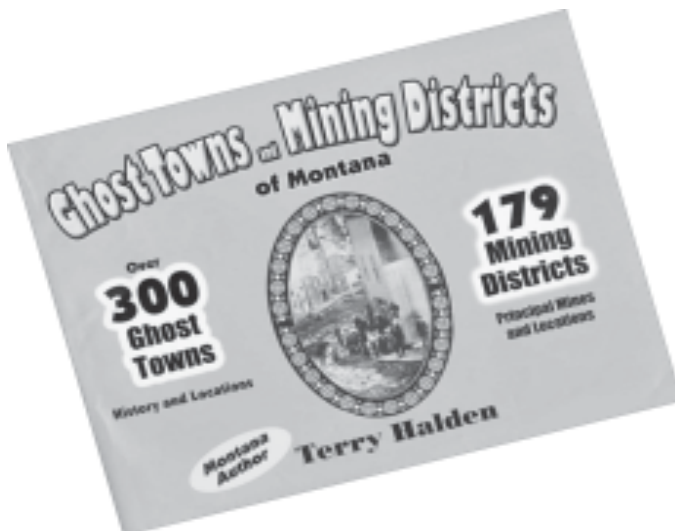
(Thompson- Hickman County Library collection)



2004



2008



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The Mineral County Museum is located in the same building as the County Library, at 301, Second Avenue east, in Superior. On display are many artifacts and archival photographs relative to the local history of mining, logging and forestry services. However, you might be interested to learn that the first of the Gideon Bibles were placed in the rooms of the Superior Hotel, a hundred years ago, in 1908. Since then, one billion, 300 million have been placed in hotel rooms, worldwide. That is one million every five and a half days. The museum is also the official repository of Lieutenant John Mullan's papers and diaries kept throughout the construction of the Mullan Wagon Road from Fort Walla Walla to Fort Benton in 1859 / 1860. Any historian researching the pathfinder should pay a visit to the museum. The museum is open daily during the season (Memorial Day to Labor Day), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at other times of the year, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, or by request at the library.

Also of interest, in the vicinity, are several National Register of Historic Places. In the town itself, is the Superior School on River Street and, on the upper reaches of nearby Cedar Creek, is the Gildersleeve mine, the latter being acknowledged as the most complete example of a depression era mining camp in Western Montana.

Just down the road, Alberton is the location of no fewer than eight buildings on the Register: The Alberton School, Bestwick's Market, The Brink's House, the Chadwick House, the Methodists Church, the Thorn House, the Wilson House and the Railroad Depot.

Next time you are roaring through on I-90, heading for Spokane, take the time for an interesting detour.



NEWS IN BRIEF

MARYSVILLE, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY\$5.2 million has been approved to upgrade the dirt road from Lincoln Road to the ghost town of Marysville. The old road, which followed the railroad bed into Tom Cruse's 'Drumlummon' find, was in pretty poor shape, having recorded six fatal accidents, including that of a state legislator, in the last decade. Construction on the new road, which will be paved with adequate shoulders, is expected to start this summer. However, before we start applauding the government for making ghost town hunting more accessible, there is the little matter of the Mt. Belmont Ski Area possibly influencing their decision.

HELENA, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY The Montana Preservation Alliance will award grants of up to \$25,000 to owners of historically significant industrial architecture, to match financing, or in-kind work, to help preserve endangered industrial sites in the state. Money for the grants is through a donation to the Alliance by the J. M. Kaplan Fund of New York; the funding will be available through the Montana History Foundation, a nonprofit fundraising organization that will help the Alliance expand its work throughout the state.

VIRGINIA CITY, MADISON COUNTY.....The Grand Ball of 1864 will be held on June 14th followed by the Grand Ball for Peace 1865 on August 16th, both taking place at the Virginia City Community Center and sponsored by the Virginia City Preservation Alliance. In accordance with strict historical re-enactment traditions, everyone attending will be urged to dress in appropriate 1860s period costume. Costumes may be rented from Ranks Mercantile in Virginia City whilst reservations, (\$35.00 single or \$60.00 couple) may be made by contacting the V.C.P.A., P.O. Box 55, Virginia City, MT 59755.

GARNET, GRANITE COUNTY.....Possibly with a twinge of guilt, a gentleman recently returned to the Bureau of Land Management, two boxes of bottles that he and friends had dug up in garbage dumps in Garnet around 1970. The B.L.M. plan to put them on display in Garnet this year. Unfortunately, the felon won't reveal the identity of his two accomplices, who have similar stashes.

SUPERIOR, MINERAL COUNTY..... The Mineral County Historical Society will conduct its PIT (Passport in Time) project up Cedar Creek on China Gulch on June 28th. For further info on this project, call the Society at 406-822-3543.

During the summer of 1970 I was to be paid by a work-study grant to work at the ghost town of Garnet, Montana on a preservation project sponsored by the BLM. The funding did not materialize, but the project sounded so great that, though I certainly needed the money, I did it anyway as an unpaid volunteer. I'm glad I did, as it was one of the most wonderful experiences of my life.

After receiving my Master's Degree in June 1971, I again worked at Garnet, this time with high school students in a program called Youth Conservation Corps, or "YCC." Before leaving for my obligation to the Military in the fall of 1971, we made our usual trip to Virginia City. There, in the Bale of Hay Saloon, Charlie Bovey asked me if I would like to work as his Curator when I returned from the Army. Though I had thought much of Virginia and Nevada City, I guess I had never really envisioned working there as a career. But the job offer was certainly enticing, and during the next few months in "Engineer Officer Basic Course" at Fort Belvoir, Virginia (south of Washington D.C.) I again (as much as my full study schedule allowed) day dreamed of Virginia City. Praise the Lord, in early February 1972, we were informed that the Vietnam war was winding down and most of us would be sent home to Army Reserve units. I was released from "active duty" February 14, 1972, and after visiting Williamsburg and exploring Washington DC, I couldn't wait to be on a train heading west.

March 15, 1972, at home in Great Falls, I got a phone call from Charlie Bovey. He asked me to come downtown to his office in the "Ford Building." He bought me lunch and hired me as Curator. I've been working here ever since.

Charlie and I went down to Virginia City a week or so later, and I moved into the "Bonanza House." My early jobs included repainting signs, setting up the displays in the Nevada City Assay Office, Nevada City Boots & Shoes, and the Sedman House, none of which had been set up as displays since the move from Old Town 12 years before. Together, Charlie and I revised a number of existing displays as well. After working for years with people who apparently did not understand what Charlie Bovey was creating, working with me brought him a new enthusiasm. Three months seemed to pass in an instant.

I had accepted a position with the BLM at Garnet starting on July 1, 1971. I had a good summer, but despite making double the wages Charlie Bovey paid me, I became fed up with the BLM bureaucracy and wanted to go back to the fun I was having with Charlie. He was very glad to have me return, and on October 31, 1972 I quit my good job with the Federal Government, and went back to Virginia City.

Besides moving buildings and setting up displays, in the summer of 1973 Ford Bovey and his wife Marilee decided to rebuild a romantic-looking stone ruin into their new Virginia City home. This project occupied much of the next year and a half. 1975 was the year of the movie "Missouri Breaks." Finally in 1976, I was again able to devote most of my time to moving buildings and setting up displays with Charlie Bovey. We moved many log houses to Nevada City during 1976 and 77. I completed my Nevada City "little house" and moved in 1977, and also moved my Big House to Nevada City that spring.

Charlie Bovey died June 10, 1978. For the next ten years, I worked closely with Mrs. Bovey, spending much of my winters at her ranch in Great Falls and summers at Nevada City. After selling our Great Falls home of 57 years in 1983, my Mother moved to my "little house" in Nevada City. Mrs. Bovey died in 1988. My Mother died in the fall of 1993.

After a brief period when the Sue Ford Bovey estate, administered by the Norwest Bank of Great Falls, owned a majority interest in Bovey Restorations, and there was a threat of them selling the artifacts, Ford Bovey obtained full ownership of the company. In 1989, Ford asked me to go to the legislature in Helena to try to convince them to buy Bovey Restorations. My first trip was not much of a success - I did not even know the legislators from the lobbyists. But I did get to talk to the State Historic Preservation Office and got the word out about the grave danger to the great historic assets at Virginia and Nevada Cities.

In 1991, a small group of concerned citizens visited the legislature, did not get very far, but in 1993 momentum for the preservation of the Bovey Properties grew. The National Trust became involved, and an "Alternative Study" was done. Many public meetings were held with a large percentage of Virginia City citizens in attendance. It appeared that the National Park Service might administer the historic sites of Virginia City, but the Virginia City Preservation Alliance was formed instead. Throughout this period, the threat of sale of the Bovey properties and artifacts kept me in a constant state of stress, and may have caused my diabetes, which was diagnosed in 1994.

During the 1995 legislative session, Karl Ohs introduced a bill to purchase the Bovey properties of Nevada City and the railroad for three million dollars, while it was thought the National Park Service would purchase the Bovey properties in Virginia City. The State bill failed by one vote, and, partly because the State purchase did not happen, the Park Service purchase also did not materialize.

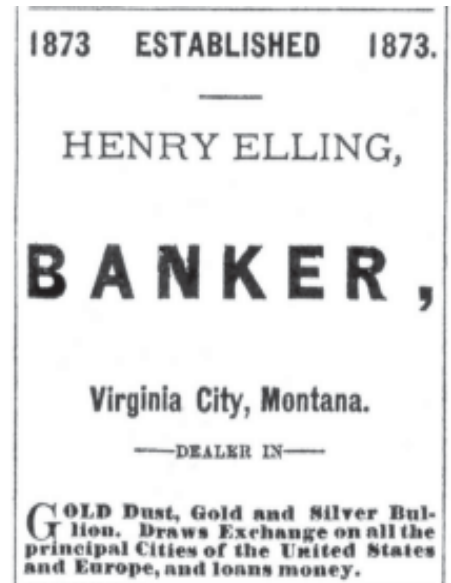
Through 1995, Ford was bombarded daily by people trying to buy artifacts, but he resisted. At Christmas, 1995, Ford promised me that he would not sell Virginia and Nevada Cities until we could make one more attempt at the State purchasing them. In 1997, Karl Ohs had the bill introduced early, there was a Governor's Task Force that recommended State purchase, there were rallies at the Capitol, and at the last minute, the bill passed! On May 16, 1997, Ford Bovey was paid six and one-half million dollars for a majority of the Bovey Restorations properties - five million for artifacts and one and half million for real estate. The assets of the Historic Landmark Society of Montana, of which I was secretary, were donated free of charge to the Montana Historical Society Foundation. This included the contract to obtain the restored steam locomotive and track from Nevada City to Virginia City.

After a brief period working for Bob Gabler and Marilee Tucker's "Historic Virginia City Inc.," which operated the concessions the first summer of State ownership, I became a State employee on July 1, 1997. I was the first employee of the Montana Heritage Commission, soon followed by Randy Kleindorfer who had worked for Bovey Restoration since 1994. Executive Director Jeff Tiberi was hired in the fall of 1997. A major project at this time was preparation for the arrival of the restored 1910 Baldwin steam locomotive and rebuilding the NC - VC track. In 1998 we began building the Engine House, with Klaus Mackinsen doing most of the work, aided by Randy and myself. We also contracted with G&G Housing to re-roof most of the shingle-roofed buildings now owned by the State. The Engine House was completed just in time for the arrival of the Locomotive in late summer, 1999. On September 10, 1999, Governor Marc Racicot drove the "Golden Spike" to celebrate the completion of the railroad, and dedicated the new McFarland Curatorial Center. It was a Great Day!

YOUR SOCIETY AT WORK

The Montana Heritage Commission has built a walking trail from the train depot in Nevada City down to Alder Gulch. Although the Gulch was dredged in the 1930's much of it has reverted back to what it looked like in the 1860's, when first prospected by placer miners. Willow overgrowths and beaver dams are in evidence. So far, the M. H. C. has built a sluice box at the site and has moved a stone arrastra (ca. 1860) that was donated by Dist. Judge Tucker. The arrastra had to be taken apart, stone by stone, individually marked, and carefully reassembled to maintain its integrity. When completed, it is hoped that the entire site will give visitors a 'hands-on' experience of what an early day placer operation was like. Four interpretive, plastic-laminate signs, that are to be made by a professional sign company, will be required, to explain the different parts of the mining process. Each will cost \$500.00 and at the last Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society board meeting, the total cost of \$2,000.00 was recommended for approval by the general membership at the annual meeting.

The M. H. C. has also appealed to the Virginia City Preservation Alliance for a similar donation and intends to use the donations to apply for a matching grant so that similar signage can be erected throughout Virginia City, interpreting the numerous historical buildings in the old mining town.



PRESERVING MONTANA

"Around two thirds of Montana's old mining camps and towns have been lost to rot, weather, the reclaimed lumber market or other demolition" said Dick and Rosemary Lee of the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society. "Virtually every time we go back to a ghost town we haven't visited for a couple of years, there are more buildings demolished". Using reclaimed lumber from old barns but often stripped from ghost town buildings has long been a popular way to build high-end homes or finish off rec. rooms.

Bozeman lumber stores, and others throughout the west, have begun selling Ghost Wood, a new type of wood, made to look like reclaimed lumber. It provides the rustic elegance of reclaimed timber without the hassle of cutting and trimming.

"One guy didn't believe that it wasn't reclaimed lumber" said Ryan Palma, Sales and Marketing Director for Bitterroot Valley Forest Products, the Missoula company that's patenting its secret recipe for Ghost Wood. Using reclaimed lumber, salvaged from forest fire or pine beetle ravaged timber, the company creates Ghost Wood using a "six step eco-friendly process." Palma refused to reveal further details about the process because the patents are still pending.

The big advantage Ghost Wood has is its price. It sells for about \$0.50 to \$4.00 per linear foot as opposed to reclaimed lumber which can cost anywhere between \$48.00 and \$180.00 per linear foot, depending on the type of wood, condition and rarity of the supply. The company guarantees the wood to hold the reclaimed patina for the lifetime of the wood with no additional staining or treatment applications required. The finish is non-toxic.

"With the supply for reclaimed wood shrinking, people have been vandalizing ghost towns" Palma added, "They're actually ripping down Ming Dynasty temples in China and shipping the wood over here."

Bitterroot Valley Forest Products donates a portion of its profits from Ghost Wood to the Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society and the Garnet Preservation Association.

Compiled, with permission, from an article by Amanda Ricker in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle



GHOST WOOD

PREZ SEZ continued from previous page.

There have been many changes in the Montana Heritage Commission since it began only eleven years ago. Now there are many more employees, and exciting educational programs. But most important, the fabulous and rare historic treasures of Virginia and Nevada Cities are preserved and secure for the generations to come.

It has been my pleasure and pride to have enjoyed thirty six years of working at Virginia and Nevada Cities, eleven of those years with the State, and a life-time of being associated with the Boveys and their simple dream of recreating the past. Though I am now entering a new chapter in my life, I hope to always continue my association with the Heritage Commission, and the enjoyment of my beloved Virginia and Nevada Cities and this wonderful time-travel adventure.



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MONTANA GHOST TOWN PRESERVATION SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1861, BOZEMAN, MT, 59771-1861

NEWS IN BRIEF continued from page 5

FORT MISSOULA, MISSOULA COUNTY.....A new permanent exhibit, entitled "Sisters of Providence: The Missoula Mission, 1873 – 1923" has opened at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, housed in the historic St. Michael's Church, on the grounds. The 'Lady Black Robes' came west from Montreal, via Vancouver, B.C., steamboat to Walla Walla, and eventually over land to Missoula, arriving nine years after the start of their journey. In Missoula they opened a hospital, school and chapel, which would become the foundation of St. Patrick's Hospital and the Missoula Catholic Schools. A temporary exhibit of memorabilia from the sisters' early life is on display until August in the museum's main building.

MARTINSDALE, MEAGHER COUNTY.....The Musselshell Historic Society of Harlowton have been authorized by the Montana Supreme Court to reopen and operate the Bair Family mansion on the outskirts of Martinsdale. Charles M. Bair came to Montana in 1883 as a railroad conductor, but amassed a fortune in the Alaska gold rush. Returning to Montana, he invested in mining, oil and real estate and became one of Montana's biggest sheep ranchers with a herd of over 300,000 head. The family mansion, built in 1936 and furnished over the years by his two daughters, Alberta and Marguerite, following frequent trips to Europe, has a value today, according to Sotheby's of over \$55 million.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, FLATHEAD / GLACIER COUNTIES.....On May 11th 2008, Glacier National Park celebrated its 98th Anniversary. It was on May 11th 1910 that President Taft signed a bill creating America's tenth National Park. With its centennial coming up in two years, you can look forward to increased programs and activities.